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*The nations shall learn war no more.*

## THE ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL

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### WILLIAM LADD.

William Ladd, whose portrait we have had worked into the new heading of our paper, was one of those men of rare intellectual and moral strength who create epochs in the history of the world. He was not the organizer of the first peace society, but he was the first to conceive and give form to the idea of a union and co-operation on a national basis of all the friends of peace. It was the inspiration of his life and work more than that of any other man which led to the international organization of the peace propaganda, the first peace congress having been held in 1843, or two years after his death. If he were living to-day, he would experience a great delight mixed with some amazement at the remarkable progress of the cause of peace, especially in the various phases of its international development and co-operation, since he founded the AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY in 1828. In the first circular ever issued by the AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY, May 8, 1828, occurs this paragraph written by Mr. Ladd, which expresses the germ-idea of the national and international organization of the peace movement:

"It must have been evident to the most careless observer, that these dispersed and isolated societies (there were then about fifty in different parts of the United States, one in England, and one in France) would have but little effect on public opinion. Can it be expected that a society, confined to a village, a city, a county or even a State, will revolutionize the world, and abolish a custom deep-rooted in the depravity of the heart and in habits almost coeval with the creation? They have, it is true, done much; and more than could have been reasonably expected; for they have furnished the germ of the national society, and are destined to supply, in a great degree, its future support. The necessity of an union of peace societies has long been felt — an union which shall eventually collect not only all the energies of all the peace societies in this country, but also in this hemisphere, and of all the nations of Christendom, into one great simultaneous effort, which shall, with God's assistance, overthrow that iron Colossus that has so long bestrode the world, and animated by the infernal spirit of

him 'who first made war in heaven' has trampled down the nations of the earth, and washed his steps with the blood of the brave, and watered his path with the tears of widows and orphans."

Many of our readers, especially those who have recently begun to take the ADVOCATE for the first time, will be interested in knowing the chief facts of Mr. Ladd's life and work.

He was born May 10, 1778, at Exeter, N. H. He entered Harvard at the age of 15 and graduated in 1797. He then took to the sea, which he followed, most of the time as a ship-master, and with much success, until the approach of the war of 1812 drove our commerce from the ocean. In 1814 he settled at Minot, Maine, and was henceforth one of the wealthiest and most extensive farmers in the State. He was converted to Christ at the age of 38, became a member of the Congregational church at Minot, and was henceforth a devoted and active Christian. Soon after this crisis in his life, President Appleton of Bowdoin College, in his last hours, called Mr. Ladd's attention to the cause of peace. This appeal was strengthened by some tracts of Dr. Noah Worcester which chanced to fall into his hands. He began immediately to write against war in the *Christian Mirror*, and soon felt himself to have a distinct call of God to devote himself and his fortune to the new cause which had won his mind and heart.

In the Maine Peace Society in 1826 the first steps were taken by him for the formation of a national society. His efforts resulted in the organization of the AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY at New York on the 8th of May, 1828, nearly all the peace societies of the country becoming immediately or in a short time identified with the new organization. He was the President of the Society nearly continuously till the time of his death in 1841, and its first Corresponding Secretary. He never received any pay for his services, but gave not only his time but also large sums of money to the cause. When Dr. Worcester, on account of failing health, gave up the publication of *The Friend of Peace*, which had continued for twelve years, William Ladd pledged himself, so long as his pen and his purse should last, to maintain the publication of a peace periodical. He began the publication of the *Harbinger of Peace*, which afterwards became the ADVOCATE OF PEACE, and for thirteen years not only did the editorial work but furnished the money to support the paper.

He was a man whose perseverance has rarely been equalled and never surpassed. He filled the whole East with his doctrine, at a day when peace principles were either the contempt or the laughing-stock of all classes of Society; and he was the means of winning many of the first men of New England to support the cause. Thomas C. Upham was his disciple. Charles Sumner was led to take up the cause by an address which he

heard Mr. Ladd give in the Old South Church, Boston, and but for this "apostle of peace" the great oration on "The True Grandeur of Nations" would never have been delivered. He had great versatility of mind, great readiness in argument, a temper which could not be disturbed, charming oratorical powers, and above all the most unwavering faith that the cause which he had in hand was God's cause and therefore worthy of his very best service. His plan for a Congress and Court of Nations was the ripe fruit of his life-thought and left little to be said afterwards on the subject. Our country has produced many noble and fruitful lives, but none more noble and fruitful, in its way, than his. The cause which he espoused is, without question, the greatest of all reforms, going deeper down into human nature and extending out more widely over all the interests of humanity than any other, and the honor of its final triumph, at no matter what point in the coming centuries, will be in no small measure his.

He came home from a lecturing tour of six months, during which he spoke nearly every night and often three times on the Sabbath, to die from sheer exhaustion. Many of his last discourses were delivered on his knees because of inability to stand. He died on the 9th of April, 1841, in the sixty-third year of his age.

#### GREAT BRITAIN AND VENEZUELA.

The following resolution touching the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela was unanimously reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs and unanimously adopted by the House of Representatives on the 6th of February:

"Whereas in the present enlightened age of the world, when international disputes in general, and more particularly those pertaining to boundary, are in constant process of adjustment by joint commission or by outside arbitration; and

"Whereas since the existing boundary dispute in Guiana, between Great Britain and Venezuela, ought not to constitute an exception to the general rule, but should more naturally come within the scope and range of modern international precedent and practice, in that it turns exclusively upon simple and readily ascertainable historical facts; and

"Whereas since it would be extremely gratifying to all peace-loving peoples, and particularly to the impartial friends of both parties, to see this long-standing and disquieting boundary dispute in Guiana adjusted in a manner just and honorable alike to both, to the end that possible international complications be avoided, and American public law and traditions maintained; therefore,

*"Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, etc., that the President's suggestion, made in his last annual message to this body, namely, that Great Britain and Venezuela refer their dispute as to boundary limits in Guiana to friendly arbitration, be most earnestly recommended to the favorable consideration of both the parties in interest."*

This resolution, which has since met with President Cleveland's approval, grew out of the suggestion contained in the President's last annual message, and was intended, as Mr. Hitt said in the short discussion preceding its passage, simply to voice the judgment of Congress as to the desirability and rightness of arbitration in this special case "in view of the discussion going on in this and other nations touching the general doctrine of arbitration as a method for the settlement of international disputes." Mr. Dingley made the point during the discussion that Congress ought not to pass such a resolution, as it would be a bad precedent in the way of interference with the affairs of other nations. This view did not prevail, however, and the resolution certainly contains nothing on the face of it which is in the least dictatorial or discourteous.

There is not much doubt, however, that the immediate occasion of the resolution was Mr. Cremer's visit to Washington with the memorial signed by 354 members of the House of Commons. We have learned from several reliable sources that the chief obstacle which he found in the way of the proposed Anglo-United States Arbitration treaty is the feeling entertained to a considerable extent at Washington that England wishes arbitration only with her equals and refuses it with her inferiors. On this point we need not repeat what was said in our last issue.

If this is a wrong interpretation of the attitude of England, as we sincerely hope, the friends of arbitration in the British parliament, who are now strong enough to make their voice heard, may do much to remove the feeling by promptly urging the British Government to submit the Anglo-Venezuelan dispute to arbitration. It is a dispute of 70 years standing. For more than a half century Venezuela has been asking Great Britain to submit her claim to arbitration. Our Government has more than once tendered its good offices as the impartial friend of both parties. As many as ten of the South American States have addressed the British Government in the same sense.

If Great Britain really favors the principle of arbitration, it is difficult to explain her course in reference to this long-standing dispute. In the course of his speech in presenting the above resolution Mr. Livingston, its author, said:

"Even at this moment there is understood to be a special envoy in this Capitol, bearing a petition signed by a majority of the British House of Commons, praying the President of the United States to agree to submit all differences between that country and this to friendly arbitration. This is praiseworthy and commendable. But why not begin the good work by petitioning their own Government at St. James to accede to Venezuela's standing offer to refer the Guiana boundary dispute to the decision of arbitration, as recommended by the President in his last annual message? Then the Parlia-